

February 6, 2002

To: Cooperators, Stakeholders, and Other Interested Members of the Public

From: Mary Nichols
Secretary for Resources Agency

Subject: North Coast Watershed Assessment Programs

I am pleased to announce the release of the first draft reports from the interagency North Coast Watershed Assessment Program for the Gualala River, Redwood Creek, and Mattole River. These documents provide an important first step in developing a watershed-based, interdisciplinary, scientific framework for the North Coast to guide restoration programs, provide direction for conservation planning, and support regulatory efforts on the North Coast. They are available on the NCWAP website at www.ncwatershed.ca.gov.

These draft reports will contribute to our knowledge about watershed conditions, processes, and land uses, and our understanding of how they interact at different scales to affect suitability for salmonid populations. By identifying the most limiting factors, we can develop recommendations for management, restoration, and monitoring to address those factors.

The reports are still in draft form, and have not yet been reviewed by those stakeholders who provided data to the program, nor by the public or the scientific community. To ensure adequate opportunity for comments and input, we will hold a public workshop for each of the three watersheds, provide a period for receiving formal comments, and contract for outside peer reviews (see attachment). I believe that public and landowner participation in this phase of the assessments is essential to producing strong final reports with focused, well-supported recommendations.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to landowners, watershed groups, local and federal agencies, and others who assisted the program by contributed information to the program, assisted with new data collection, and provided access to private land for data collection. We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve the assessment process and to find opportunities to use and maintain these products into the future to protect our watersheds and to contribute to the recovery of our listed salmonid species. For additional information on this program please call Maria Rea at 916-654-1885.

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



Opportunities for Reviewing and Commenting on Draft Watershed Assessments for the Gualala River, Redwood Creek, and Mattole River

Workshops

Workshops will be held the end of February or beginning of March. Please check the NCWAP website (www.ncwatershed.ca.gov) for information or call the following workshop leads:

- Gualala River Assessment Workshop: Robert Klamt, at 707-576-2693
- Redwood Creek Assessment Workshop: Steve Cannata at 707-725-1015
- Mattole River Assessment Workshop: Scott Downie at 707-725-1070

Written or Email Comments

Written or email comments will be accepted through Monday, March 11, 2002.
Comments on the Draft Gualala River Watershed Report should be directed to:

Robert Klamt
North Coast Water Quality Control Board
5550 Skyline Blvd. Suite A
Santa Rosa, California 95403
KlamR@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov

Send comments on the Draft Mattole River Watershed Report to:

Scott Downie
Department of Fish and Game
1487 Sandy Prairie Court, Suite A
Fortuna, California 95540
sdownie@dfg.ca.gov

Please send comments on the Draft Redwood Creek Watershed Report to:

Steve Cannata
Department of Fish and Game
1487 Sandy Prairie Court, Suite A
Fortuna, California 95540
scannata@dfg.ca.gov